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Message Text

SECRET

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53
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAB-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /148 W
---------- 085810
P R 241230Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2485
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T ROME 14272

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VT, SU, ET, ZA, LI, XF
SUBJECT: PAPAL AUDIENCE FOR AFRICAN LEADERS

1. HAILE SELASSIE, PRESIDENT NIMIERI, VICE PRESIDENT GREEN AND FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ETHIOPIA, SUDAN AND LIBERIA HAD 90 MINUTE WORKING MEETING WITH POPE PAUL DECEMBER 22ND. MAIN TOPICS AT REQUEST OF AFRICANS WERE MIDDLE EAST WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES, AND RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN AFRICA. AFRICANS SOUGHT AUDIENCE AS BEST WAY TO GIVE AFRICA A VOICE IN GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS AND REQUESTED THAT POPE EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AT GENEVA MEETING. POPE WILL PROBABLY DO THIS IN LETTERS TO U.S. AND SOVIET CHAIRMAN.

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2. RE MIDDLE EAST AFRICAN LEADERS HOPEFUL THAT ALL

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PARTIES WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF POSSIBILITIES OFFERED
BY GENEVA CONFERENCE. THEY EXPRESSED SPECIAL CONCERN FOR
RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLES. AFRICAN LEADERS BELIEVE THAT
"JERUSALEM SHOULD NOT BE UNDER CONTROL OF ONE SOLE RELIGION"
AND THAT "FOR THE STATUS OF THE CITY A SOLUTION MUST BE
FOUND ON THE BASIS OF UN RESOLUTIONS."

3. AFRICAN LEADERS PRAISED POPE'S STATEMENTS AND INTEREST IN
AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH DECEMBER 21
PAPAL ADDRESS TO CARDINALS IN WHICH POPE MADE STRONG APPEAL
FOR SELF-DETERMINATION AND END TO COLONIALISM. VISITORS
DID NOT SEEK ACTIVE PAPAL ROLE IN AFRICAN PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS
MOZAMBIQUE BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE ACTIVE
INTEREST IN AFRICA'S WELFARE.

4. DETAILED REPORT WILL BE SENT SOONEST. VOLPE

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